Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon.—Is it the duty of the Government to contradict every statement we find in the newspapers?

President.—I would just think over the matter and give my ruling in the course of the day.

The Bill to amend the Cochin Court of Wards Regulation.

President.—Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon, you opposed the motion that the Bill to amend the Cochin Court of Wards Regulation be passed at the next Friday's meeting.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Yes, Sir, I opposed.

President.—Do you want to say anything in opposition?

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Yes, Sir. It would have been sufficiently plain to you that the non-official side of this House is considerably opposed to that amending Bill, had you been present here last afternoon.

President.—Of course, I know, in regard to that particular point, whether the Bill is to come into force at once or on the 1st of Chingam 1103, the House was divided, and the Deputy President passed the amendment by giving his independent vote. So the Bill is to come into force at once. That is the nature of the thing, so far as I read the papers.

Mr. N Padmanabha Menon.—From that it is plain that this House does not want the Bill to be passed at once.

President.—More or less, the opinion of the House is divided.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—I am not enumerating all the reasons that have been advanced in the previous discussions, and so, in one or two sentences, I shall summarise them. It would be highly injudicious to transfer the power of execution from the Civil Courts to the executive officers. The second is that a very strong case has been made out that it is through want of proper consideration that the Government assumed management of the estate, which strictly ought to go to the Insolvency Court and not to the Court of Wards. If we pass this Amendment Bill, the result will be that the creditors in Cochin will not get anything, whereas the creditors in Travancore and British India will realise their portion of the debt.

President.—That is, by proceeding against Travancore and British property?

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Yes, Sir. The extreme negligence (I may be excused for so saying) of the Court of Wards in not valuing the estate till now, even though we pressed

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the point in the last sitting of the Council, compels us to oppose the amending Bill. It was on account of these reasons that we opposed the Bill at the first reading and at the second reading, when the Bill was read, clause by clause, and even when the last motion was made that the Bill may be taken up and passed on Friday.

President.—It was considered an emergent measure, and it has been pointed out very often in the Council that it was mainly to meet this particular estate that the Bill has come.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—That is exactly what the non-official side of the House does not want.

President.—Its object will be frustrated, if it is put off to next year or some time hence.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—I may be excused for pointing out that the non-official side is not convinced that this estate requires such particular treatment at the hands of the Government. It is on account of this that the motion is opposed.

President.—Let the House express its view on this matter. If the House says that it should not be passed at the next Friday's meeting, well and good. We will not pass it. So it is a question to be put to the vote of the House.

The question that the Bill to amend the Cochin Court of Wards Regulation be passed at the meeting of the Council on the subsequent Friday was put to the vote of the House, and the motion was lost.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—A poll, Sir.

The following is the result of the poll:—

Ayes.

1 Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.
2 ,, K. Achyuta Menon.
3 ,, V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.
4 ,, K. Govinda Menon.
5 ,, E. Ikkanda Wariar.
6 Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.
7 Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.
8 ,, K. Krishna Pisharodi.
9 ,, C. Matthai.
10 ,, K. S. Rama Ayyar.
11 ,, I. Raman Menon.
12 ,, Sheik Abdul Qadir Sahib Bahadur.
13 ,, V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.
14 ,, A. K. Vengu Ayyar.
15 Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.

Noes.

1 Mr. I. E. Ambooken.
2 ,, Chakko Cheruvattur.
3 ,, O. R. Chummar.
4 ,, A. Eachara Menon.
5 ,, George Chakyamuri

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6 Mr. S. S. Koder.
7 ,, M. Krishna Menon.
8 ,, P. Kunju Muhammad.
9 ,, C. A. Kunjunni Raja.
10 ,, K. T. Mathew.
11 ,, P. Munda Vaidyan.
12 ,, C. A. Ouseph.
13 ,, N. Padmanabha Menon.
14 ,, T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.
15 ,, M. K. Raman.
16 Dr. A. Ravunni Menon.
17 Mr. A. B. Salem.
18 ,, A. Sankara Puduval.

Neutrals.

1 Dr. A. Govinda Menon.
2 Mr. K. P. Karuppan.
3 ,, V. K. Kochunni Menon.
4 ,, K. Krishna Menon.
5 Srimati T. Madhavi Amma.
6 Mr. K. Sankaran Nambudiri.

The motion was declared lost, only 15 voting for the motion, and 18 against, 6 being neutral.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—Can the Member for Vellarappalli vote?

President.—Whether he continues to be a Member or not has not yet been decided.

What is the further procedure? We cannot take it up next Friday. It can be taken up only at the next sitting—next session or next sitting.

Mr. C. Achyuta Menon.—It may be taken up at some other meeting.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—But he will have to give notice under Standing Order 19.

President.—You look into the matter, and do the needful. Is it worthwhile to carry on the management of this estate with so many difficulties ahead?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—I think I gave my views yesterday. I am not quite hopeful.

President.—Then, why not find means for getting rid of this?

Rao Sahib Mr. T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—There are principles established by the Medical profession, which is well known to Dr. Verghese, and they have to be followed. As long as there is life, there is hope.

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